

### Paper-making Politicians.

In his recent speech at Saratoga, Warner Miller said "it seemed natural for paper makers to go into politics." He did not tell the association that William A. Russell of Massachusetts and himself both members of the last House, both re-elected to the present Congress, and both manufacturers of paper on a large scale, went before the Committee of Ways and Means to prevent any change in the tariff which would disturb the price of paper.

Petitions had been sent in from every State in the Union asking that the onerous and unjust duties levied on wood, straw and other pulp, and upon soda ash, principally made abroad, should be abolished, so that the door of competition in the manufacture of paper might be opened wide to enterprise and industry.

Miller and Russell, who were then, as now, enjoying special privileges and enormous profits by heavy taxation on newspapers, school books and Bibles, exerted all the political and personal influence derived from membership to defeat this popular demand.

In order to accomplish their object, combinations were formed with different interests by threatening them with hostile legislation unless they made common cause to prevent any change in the duty on paper. Other persuasive arguments, too common at Washington, may also be imagined.

The existing tariff favored huge monopolies. It was passed in the confusion that followed a civil war, when schemes of reconstruction were agitated. In war or in peace, the interested parties never lost sight of the main chance; and their patriotism was stimulated in proportion to the increase of their privileges and of their profits.

With this success in the last Congress, Mr. Miller now finds it "natural for paper-makers to go into politics." It is a paying business—far better than office-holding of any other that he can now engage in, with money wanting permanent takers at 3 per cent. a year. By adroit management in a House of 293 members, Messrs. Miller and Russell, representing a rich monopoly in the manufacture of paper, were able to stop the desired change of duties which yield only a nominal revenue and are maintained solely to exclude competition in that branch of industry.

Mr. Russell is a member of the present House, with a Republican majority committed to special interests. Any Speaker on that side, East or West, will pack the Ways and Means adversely to reform of the tariff. If there should be a close vote, Mr. Russell knows how obstacles may be removed. Places on that important committee are openly sought, because they may be turned to valuable account by corrupt members. It has been publicly charged that \$100,000 was paid by sugar manufacturers in the last Congress to prevent adverse legislation.

If Mr. Miller should be allowed to take a seat in the Senate without question, he will have a much smaller sphere for his active ability as a manipulator of legislation. He will be sure of a hearty welcome by the corporation Senators. The Finance Committee organized at the recent extra session excludes any reasonable hope of escape from existing tariff abominations.

With the Senate and the House of Representatives in Republican hands, corporate power and manufacturing monopoly will have full swing. And with the Executive and the Supreme Court standing behind this combination the country may know what to expect.

Therefore without any reference to political considerations, it is of the first consequence that the rights of Messrs. Miller and Lapham should be investigated before they are allowed to take seats in the United States Senate. If their credentials are smirched, that fact should be examined with care.—*New York Sun*.

### The Peril of New Orleans.

From the Savannah (Ga.) Morning News.

New Orleans is confronted with a danger that has long been apparent to eminent engineers. The beds of the Red and Atchafalaya rivers are on a lower level than that of the Mississippi, and for years past the Mississippi has exhibited a tendency, increasing from time to time, to find its way to the Gulf through the Atchafalaya. Over twenty years ago Mr. J. E. Duncan, State Engineer of Louisiana, became impressed with the danger of permitting the waters of the Mississippi to enlarge and deepen the Atchafalaya, and conceived the idea of closing the mouth of Red River and opening a new channel through Bayou Plaquemine, Grand Lake and the Atchafalaya. He submitted an elaborate report on the subject. But little attention was given to the matter, however. But of late the size of the Atchafalaya has grown so sensibly that the danger of New Orleans is made manifest to every one. The Democrat, discussing the subject, says that the Mississippi may, at no very remote day, abandon its present channel and adopt that of the Atchafalaya, what affords a shorter route of the gulf, and is upon a lower level than its own. This is no mere idle fancy, no whimsical fear, but a real danger, which threatens the very existence of New Orleans, and which can not, therefore, too soon be met and fought with outright. Another danger to the Crescent City, which is at hand, is the destructive action of the river on the levees in the

second and third districts of the city. The damage already done is so extensive that immediate action alone can repair it. For some twelve or fourteen blocks there is but one wharf standing, the one in front of the lower cotton press, and that is in a shaky and unsafe condition. All the wharves but that one, all the piling and all the fenders or cane mats, placed on the bank by the government and by government contractors, have been swept away, and the receding water reveals a condition of affairs that is truly startling, calling for instant attention and the adoption of some method which will certainly answer the requirements of the case. The methods pursued in the past by the government engineers have proved worse than useless, for they have cost a great deal of money and effected no good whatever, the banks caving as rapidly as though nothing had been done, and the river pursuing unrelentingly its encroachments till the margin of the street has been reached in some places, and the very houses on the banks are threatened with annihilation. Hon. E. John Ellis, of New Orleans, appreciating the gravity of the situation, visited the threatened locality, critically examined the extent and cause of the damage, and will probably make such representations to the chief engineer at Washington as will cause the unexpended portion of an appropriation (some \$85,000) for that harbor to be used in a way that will give the relief needed.

### Tree Culture in California.

Nine years ago an emigrant from an Eastern State arrived in one of the bay counties with his family and a capital of \$75. He had some knowledge of horticulture, and was a good practical gardener. A capitalist who was the owner of some comparatively useless land, contracted with this emigrant for planting and tending forty acres of this land in Australian gums or eucalyptus.

The breaking, fencing, planting and labor on the land cost the owner \$3,600. At the end of the first year he had 32,000 thrifty trees, and the second year he set out the shaded ground in pasture which retained its verdure nearly throughout the entire twelve months, showing a denser growth from year to year. At the beginning of the third year he utilized this pasture for dairy cows, and found it strong enough to support two cows to the acre. He estimated its value for this use at \$4 per month per acre for eight months out of twelve, or \$32 per year per acre. The total yearly profit from this source was \$1,280.

At the end of the eighth year he was offered in cash by the keepers of a woodyard 80 cents each for his trees, or \$2,560 per acre, the purchasers to pay all the cost of cutting and removing the timber. The total value was \$9,600, but in the meantime the owner of the land had had five years' use of the pasture, which, by his own close estimate, was worth to him \$6,000. This makes the grand total of gross earnings in eight years \$15,600. From this must be deducted \$3,600 paid out for the nursery plants, fencing and labor, and an expense of \$500 for water for irrigation during the first two years, leaving a net income of \$11,500, or \$187.50 per acre for the eight years, or \$36 per acre for one year.—*San Francisco Chronicle*.

### The Wants of the Lungs.

While the ordinary lungs of an adult may hold about six quarts, it does not follow that each breath contains that amount, but about one pint. This arrangement implies the constant action of the air in the purification of the blood, the primary object of breathing. Each contraction of the heart forces two or three ounces of blood to the lungs for the purpose, the refuse, after the combustion of the waste, being in part carbonic gas, a deadly poison to the lungs, but safe for the stomach. By estimate the amount absolutely needed, that the blood may be well purified, is from seven to ten cubic feet each minute for an adult. And since this gas is heavier than air and is diffusible, it is needful to have open doors that it may pass into the cellar, like water, there to be absorbed by a tub of water and the like.

Do we secure this supply in all of our sleeping rooms? An estimate of the capacity of such a room divided by 4,000 cubic feet, or the amount needed by an adult for the night, will determine the matter. If two occupy the room, 8,000 is the divisor. How large a room will hold 8,000 cubic feet? Not less than twenty feet in its three dimensions.—*Dr. J. H. Hanaford*.

SENATOR Butler, of South Carolina, writing to a local paper, says: "Journalism has become as much a separate and distinct profession as medicine, or law, or engineering, or agriculture, or architecture, or mining, and every family should have a newspaper if they expect or care to keep pace with the current of events in this fast-moving age. Books are not always accessible, but newspapers are, and at a price that places them within the reach of the poor as well as the rich."

### Scarcity and Value of Black Walnut.

The Chicago Tribune says a few years ago Michigan abounded in black walnut, and this was the foundation of its furniture manufactories. Now the state is stripped of the timber. The furniture men were driven first into Indiana. They cleared out the black walnut in that state. Now they have gone into the mountain regions of Tennessee and Kentucky, and will soon leave no valuable timber there. Canada is not better off. The Toronto Globe says \$100 per 1,000 feet has been paid this year for the same quality of black walnut that could be bought last year for \$70. The accessible supplies of black walnut in the Dominion have been used up. The price has advanced so far in the United States that oak, which costs one-third as much, is being largely substituted for walnut. Hardwood floors are now made of oak. It is a common material for furniture and doors, and more fashionable than walnut. Oak will be next to limitless, but they are not more abundant than walnut seemed to be a quarter of a century ago. The time has already come when tree-culture can be made profitable in this country. There is money in black walnut. It will pay 5,000 per cent. in twenty years. The soil along the shore of Lake Erie is peculiarly adapted for its growth. It is surprising that the farmers in that vicinity do not see their way clear to making such investments for posterity as the planting of black walnut groves and forests would be.

The Courier-Journal, which recently called attention to the very great value of black walnut in Kentucky, which has been in some localities wasted through lack of transportation facilities, says that it will pay owners of that timber not only to carefully guard it, but to plant it on cleared lands, is evident from its growing commercial value. In Canada, Mr. Joly, one of the leading Dominion statesmen, has advised farmers to plant black walnut wherever they have the space. In Canada that tree has been ruthlessly destroyed in many places. Mr. Joly planted black walnut seed in 1874, and the trees are now over fourteen feet high. Judging, says Mr. Joly, by the growth of the living trees and the rings of the timber when cut, I do not hesitate to say that a black walnut, under ordinary circumstances, at the age of seventy-five years, will have attained twenty-one inches in diameter, and will contain at least fifty cubic feet of timber, the actual value of which is about one dollar per cubic foot. This is in Canada, where trees grow far more slowly than they do in this latitude. A plantation of black walnut trees is certainly a valuable possession, and there is no reason why the supply should not be kept up by planting.

### The Highest Lake in the World.

The lake that has the highest elevation of any in the world is Green Lake in Colorado. Its surface is 10,252 feet above the level of the sea. Pine forests surround it, and eternal snows deck the neighboring mountain tops. One of these, Gray's Peak, has an altitude of 14,341 feet. The water of Green Lake is as clear as crystal, and large rock masses and a petrified forest are distinctly visible at the bottom. The branches of the trees are of dazzling whiteness, as though cut in marble. Salmon trout swim among them. The lake is 200 feet deep.—*Denver Tribune*.

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